[14th February 1955

Koothali Estate

* 697 *Q*.—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have any proposal to give cultivable waste lands of Koothali Estate in Malabar to the landless peasants and agricultural labourers; and

(*b*) if so, how many acres of land will be distributed?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) No.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

* 698 *Q*.—SRI P. KUNHIRAMA KIDAV : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 32 families of Mudukad of Koothali Estate in Perambra Firka in North Malabar are under orders of eviction from their dwellings; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representations from the peasant families of Mudukad to effect legal lease of the above mentioned lands so as to enable them to be in rightful possession of the lands?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) Yes."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" As far as Koothali Estate is concerned, when the Government took over the lands from private landholders, they did not lease the lands to peasants for cultivation. But, according to section 52 of the Malabar Tenancy Act, the Government are asking private landholders to lease their lands including waste lands for poonam cultivation and other forms of cultivation. When the question of Government land comes in, they do not want to give it for cultivation. Is it justifiable on the part of the Government to do so? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" The hon. Member is aware of the circumstances prevailing in this Estate. The matter is still before the court. As far as the ryots in this Estate are concerned, the question of the reservation of forests also is involved in the matter. We have recently appointed Sri Sathianathan to go into the entire matter and make recommendations to the Government. As soon as his report is available, the Government will take a decision."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" Sir, on a matter of personal explanation. This is one of the most important problems concerning Malabar. I request the Chair to allow a half-hour debate on it."

MR. SPEAKER :—" It is not possible to allot a half-hour debate on it. To-day there is one-hour debate. To-morrow there is half-hour debate and day after to-morrow there is another one-hour debate."